

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 24, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-43)

TO: Charlie Craig, KEWU-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Amazon Basin (Willow Creek - Eugene Wetlands) - Cuddeback Land Acquisition

Project No: 1992-059-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.2 Easement Acquisition.

Location: Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) propose to acquire a conservation easement on wildlife mitigation lands under the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Approximately 76 acres of land would be purchased and managed, primarily as wetlands habitat, for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of wildlife affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric facilities in the Columbia River Basin.

These lands will become part of the Willow Creek Wildlife Mitigation Area, and are contiguous to the existing 330 acres of protected lands and an additional 99 acres that BPA proposed to acquire in 2001. More information on these adjacent lands is available in the Eugene Wetlands Phase II Land Acquisition Supplement Analysis, October 17, 2001, available from BPA. Passive management practices may take place on the land until a wildlife mitigation and management plan is developed and approved for the property.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Brenda Brown, The Nature Conservancy, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided information on species that may exist in the vicinity of the project and are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The species include the bald eagle, Willamette daisy, Bradshaw's lomatium, Kincaid's lupine, and Fender's blue butterfly. A number of other at-risk but non-listed plant and animal species also are known to use the property.

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde were contact about the 2001 land acquisitions, and a follow-up letter was sent in August 2004. No known cultural resources are located on the property, and TNC has committed to having an archaeologist conduct surveys or monitoring if any ground-disturbing activities take place.

Hahn and Associates (Environmental Consultants) completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the property on August 31, 2004. A review of the Assessment by a member of BPA's Pollution Prevention & Abatement group found that there is a Recognized Environmental Condition (REC) on the property consisting of a plume of halogenated volatile organic compounds in the groundwater. The plume is migrating from an adjacent site, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing the REC. The report recommended actions in response, and found that the plume should not pose an undue risk and that there was no need for a Phase II Assessment.

A public involvement program concerning the Willow Creek Wildlife Mitigation Program has been active for several years. The plan for land acquisition has been the subject of extensive public review and testimony. A public involvement process was conducted for the related land acquisition projects in 2001, and for the current parcel that is proposed for acquisition, a letter was sent to all public and private landowners adjacent to the property or known to be interested in the project.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Richard Yarde
Richard Yarde
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: September 27, 2004

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, with cover letter from Walasavage
Letter from TNC to Dennis Griffin at SHPO
Project Map

cc: (w/o attachments)
Brenda Brown, TNC, 821 SE 14th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214